

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph that begins on page 13, line 28 as follows:

The sealing apparatus **10** of the present invention then may be coated with any type of coating known to those skilled in the art. As shown in Figures 2 and 3, the outer portions of the surfaces **20, 22**, the sealing member **12** and the engagement member **34** are coated with coating **42**. For instance, embodiments of the sealing apparatus **10** of the present invention may be coated with one or more layers of paint. To ensure that the sealing member **12** may be disengaged and engaged within the receiving aperture **24** and/or the at least one engagement member **34, 36**, as shown in Figures 2 and 3, respectively, the coating(s) may be applied such that there is a splice **43** in the coating **42** at the point coincident with the distal end of the seal portion **16**.